



St. David's Page

"We Are One in the Spirit"

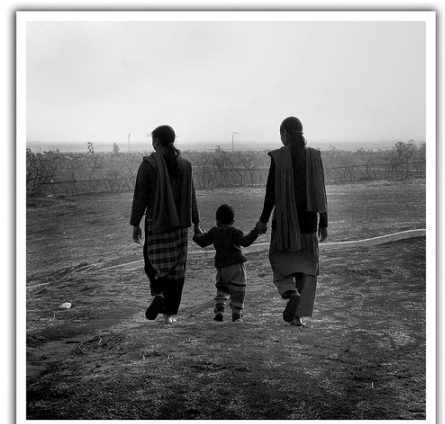
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Last week at our southern region clergy meeting in Cedar City, and again the next day at the Convocation in Salt Lake, I heard many clergy discussing the spiritual disciplines and heavyweight book studies they had planned for their congregations during the season of Lent. And you Steve? What are you doing at St. David's? Nothing, I said. We're watching movies.

I will readily admit that my upbringing in another denomination has scarred me to this day when it comes to the season of Lent. As I saw it, guilt was a central emotion in that tradition. There was a constant stress on humanity's unworthiness. The Augustinian theology of the depravity of humanity remains a central concept in much of Western Christendom, while Augustine's rival Pelagius is still written off as nothing more than a theological hack. This turned Lent into a painful and inferiority producing 40 days for me. It convinced me that I was scum and that God believed I was scum. I am well aware that I have overcompensated for this, but anything today that even hints at groveling or personal scourging during this season is anathema to me. That's why instead of taking part in a spiritual discipline at St. David's during Lent, we eat together and watch movies together.

For my soul, we have spent much too much time in Lent emphasizing personal practices of asceticism while forgetting the reason for those disciplines. Jesus went into the desert for 40 days not to punish himself, but to go on a vision quest to discover what God was calling him to do with his life. Lent is not about self-loathing or even self-denial. It is supposed to be about transformation. It is an opportunity for us to mature and





develop our faith by going on a journey. If fasting and abstinence are helpful tools for you in transforming your life, I urge you to utilize them. But in addition to personal approaches to Lent, I think it is also critical that we remember that transformation most often takes place in the midst of community.

That has been proven out in the past here at St. David's. Our movie nights have created a bond among us that helped grow this church to the healthy place that it is today. It has brought us closer to one another and it has changed us. The same can be said for Taize', that moves to Sunday evenings during Lent. It is so transformative not just because it is meditative, but because we have the opportunity to meditate together.

This year, we trust that this transformation will continue in our parish as we begin to explore where we go as a parish from here. Your Vestry will go on retreat this month to begin the process of re-imagining us and planning our future together. This is the Lenten journey, introspectively looking at how we work together to grow the realm of God.

As we take this journey together, I ask each of you to think about how this church has transformed you and how we can best continue that transformation in the future. Any ideas you have from wild and crazy to practical are all important. Let your Vestry know what you are thinking before March 13, when they will put together a visioning of our immediate future.



I invite all of you therefore, into this communal journey, this observance of a Holy Lent that really does offer all of us an opportunity for us to make more of ourselves and more of each other.

A blessed Lent to all of you,

Steve +



THE FIRST SUNDAY

..... of each month is Food Pantry Sunday here at St. David's. This month, it falls on March 1, which is also St. David's Feast Day. What a way to celebrate! Of course, everyone could bring leeks, but we could use some easy to prepare meals like Mac and Cheese, or Hamburger Helper, too. Other sources of protein such as beans, tuna and other canned meats are a good option. Canned vegetables and fruit, rice, ramen noodles, and soups are handy to have on the shelves. Much of the food we give out is for home preparation, but sometimes we get people who just need something to eat, so if you want to donate things like vienna sausage, we can always use it.



Healing Service

On the first Sunday of each month, we offer a short healing service after our regular worship. This is an

evolving liturgy, using both traditional sources and the gifts of those among us with healing hands. Please feel free to take part in this special service, or share your gifts with our community.

Taize Worship

This year, the Vestry agreed that our meditation service is very appropriate and

needed in Lent. Since we traditionally hold our Soup and a Movie event on Wednesdays, Taize will move to Sunday evenings at 6:30 pm, beginning March 1. It's the perfect way to close out the week, or prepare for a new one. Our meditation worship grew out of an earlier Lenten evening prayer years ago.



TRAINING FOR LAITY

Our training series continues, slowly due to a few calendar changes, but surely. While it may look effortless when some of us are up at the altar or lectern, it does take a bit of training and helpful hints. If you signed up, or just want to know what's involved, this is your

chance to learn about the liturgical activities at St. David's.

The next session will be on Sunday, March 1 at 3 PM for Chalice

Bearers. These are the

people who serve at communion. Again, it's not as hard as it looks, with a little practice. Following this is the class on Lay Eucharist Visitor or LEV. LEV's are the people who take Communion to the sick and home bound as we share our common body and blood.

On March 8 at 3 PM, we will be training people to be Greeters for our services. This is one of our most important ministries here - making visitors feel welcome when they come in. You'll learn the mystery of the name tag machine, putting together a small collection of



gifts and connecting with visitorsall in about 10 seconds. Once again, yes it's hard to do, but we'll have lots of helpful hints for each of you.

In all of our training sessions, we ask those who are already serving to come to the class as well. Newbies can benefit from your experiences, and sometime the protocol or place changes.

SOUP AND A MOVIE

It's a St. David's tradition to share a simple meal of soup and bread, and watch a movie on



Wednesday evenings during Lent. This year is no different. We'll start on March 4 at 6:30 PM in Gossard

Hall. Watch for a sign-up sheet on Sundays - we'll need two to three cooks for each evening. On the schedule are "The Visitor," "August Rush," "Great



Debaters," "Arranged," and "The Hobart Shakespeareans."



You may have seen some of these already, but come join us anyway for the great soups we serve.



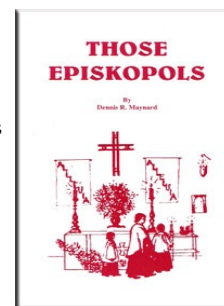
INQUIRERS' SERIES

During the Lenten Season we will begin our annual teaching series, the Inquirer's class. The class is for anyone who would like to learn more about the church, specifically the Episcopal Church and the Anglican tradition, of which we are a part. It's also a preparation for being received into the



church. This is a six-part series. Our first class covers the history of the church from Jesus to the eighteenth century. (All in an hour and a half...amazing!) The second class will be history, part II, a look at the church as it developed in America. Next, we'll cover everything you always wanted to know about the Book of Common Prayer and our liturgy. The following class will be a discussion of Sacramental theology, and what we mean by Sacrament.

The fifth class looks at Episcopal church polity, ie how we get things done and how the church is run. Finally, the last class will focus on the "emerging church," how the church is adapting to today's culture. We'll cover a lot in a short time, but the classes will be informative and fun, whether you have a doctorate in Anglican studies, or you think that Episcopalian is something that you need to get out of your rug before it stains.



Traditionally, the class is a preparation for the Bishop's visit and reception (see below) into the Episcopal Church. Inquirers Class is also a forum for discussion about the church. Anyone is welcome to sit in on the sessions. If you are interested, please let Steve+ or Jody know. Classes are scheduled to begin Sunday March 15 at 4:30 pm, but that can be changed to fit everyone's schedule.

YA YA'S GO CELTIC

IT'S TIME AGAIN FOR THE YA YA'S TO CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY. IN KEEPING WITH TRADITION, WE MEET AT CONNIE TKALCEVIC'S HOME TO SHARE OUR FAVORITE GREEN OR IRISH FOODS AND SING THE UNICORN SONG. SOME OF US WEAR ORANGE OR BRING CHEESE CURLS IN PROTEST. WHATEVER YOUR REASON FOR CELEBRATING, PLEASE JOIN US FOR FOOD FUN

AND FELLOWSHIP.

WE'LL MEET AT CONNIE'S HOME, 30 BUTTE COURT, ON FRIDAY, MARCH 20TH AT 6:30 PM. BRING YOUR FAVORITE GREEN FOOD, OR YOUR FAVORITE IRISH, ORANGE OR BOSTON FOOD. REMEMBER THAT IT'S STILL LENT, AND KEEP THE DECADENCE LEVEL DOWN A BIT. IF YOU NEED DIRECTIONS OR WOULD LIKE A RIDE, PLEASE LET JODY KNOW.



BISHOP'S ANNUAL VISIT

On May 10th, Bishop Carolyn Tanner Irish will be returning to make her official annual visit to St. David's. It will be a huge day for us at St. David's, as we celebrate the Bishop being with us. Probably a little more relaxing for all of us than last year's visit - the Dedication.

As part of her official visit, Bishop Irish will receive new members into the St. David's and Episcopal family. At this time she may also renew Baptisms of members.

Please mark your calendars to be there on this momentous day -it's always a fun day for us and for the Bishop. It's just possible that this will be her last visit to us, but let's hope not!

Preparation for Baptism

Lent is the traditional time in the church for those considering Baptism to undertake classes in preparation for full initiation into the Body of Christ. The early church most

often baptized new members on Easter Sunday. We will continue that tradition at St. David's. All interested persons who are considering Baptism should talk to Steve + so that we can set up a class time and schedule.

Meal Deal Sunday

Don't forget our new "Meal Deal" Sunday, the last Sunday of each month, when a team of cooks serves up a community meal for all of us. This month on March 29th, the main dish is chicken. There's always a vegetarian option, and meals are wheat and mushroom free. Don't miss it if you can!



Coming in April

Do I really have to tell you? April is jam packed with events, not the least of which is our marathon Holy Week beginning April 5 with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, our ecumenical Good Friday Tenebrae, Holy Saturday, and finally, the best day, April 12, when we celebrate Easter Sunday. April will also see the return of our Passover Seder for the Jewish community. Late in the month, we'll take part in Page's annual Earth Day celebration. And don't forget, Opening Day comes on April 6!

Electronic Newsletters!

St. David's is moving to the 21st century. As of last month, we are offering an emailed version of this newsletter. It comes in living color, perhaps faster than snail mail, and you can print what you need. If you would like get the email version, send your address to "adminstd@cableone.net" and Jody will put you the email list. And don't worry, we'll still send out paper copies to anyone who wants one.

